



Carolina Country

July 1976

People

Carl T. Hicks of Walstonburg has been voted "Distinguished Agricultural Alumnus of the Year" by faculty members of the School of Agriculture and Life Sciences at N.C. State University. Hicks, a former State Senator, farms 1,000 acres in Greene County and has interests in various Greene County businesses. He helped organize the Flue-Cured Tobacco Cooperative Stabilization Corp. in 1946 and has served as its president since its inception.



Lynn A. Brown of Kentucky has been appointed Deputy State Conservationist for the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) in North Carolina. He succeeds **Billy M. Johnson**, who has been promoted to a post at Fort Worth, Texas. Brown, a Wyoming native, has been with SCS since 1965. He has been recognized as a USDA "Outstanding Young Executive."

Tammy Smith, 11-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Smith of Marion, has been named winner of a statewide 4-H Traffic Safety Poster contest. Her winning

poster, selected from entries by 700 Tar Heel youngsters featured the theme "Life Signs—Obey Them." As first place winner, Tammy received a 10-speed bicycle.

The Farmers Home Administration has presented special Citizens Awards to four individuals, recognizing their assistance to the agency's efforts to serve North Carolina rural people. They were: **Nick DeMa** executive vice president of the N.C. Home Builders Association; **Elwood Inscoe**, deputy commissioner of the fire and rescue services division of the N.C. Department of Insurance; **Dr. Fred Sobering** of the Department of Economics at NCSU; and **Frank Jete Jr.**, public information officer of the Soil Conservation Service.

The late **David Weaver** has been elected to the North Carolina Agriculture Hall of Fame. The Ohio native came to the state in 1923 as an associate professor of agriculture engineering at NCSU. He later served in various capacities at the school, including 11 years of service as director of the Agricultural Extension Service.

Thomas O. Davis, principal of Harnett Elementary School in Dunn, was the recipient of the 1975-76 Human Relations Award presented by the North Carolina Association of Educators at the group's annual meeting in Charlotte. The NCAE also presented the Ter Sanford Award for teaching creativity and innovation to **Donald George Arnold**, a foreign language teacher at T. Wingate Andrews High School in High Point. The educators were each selected for their honors from among district winners in a statewide elimination.

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Carolina Country

Read Monthly in More than
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Vol. 8 No. 7 July, 1976

Editorial

Frustrated Consumers

Official Publication
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Membership Corporation
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The member-owners of North Carolina EMCs might well be the state's most frustrated consumers. They enjoy the privilege of receiving dependable electric service at cost from their local EMCs. They know that when they pay their monthly electric bills, the money will be used to cover only operating costs. And they know that if there is a margin at the end of the year, it will be credited to all consumer-members on a pro rata basis—and will eventually be returned to them in the form of capital credits.

In addition, the EMC consumer-member knows that he has the right to question the manner in which that cooperative is operated—with the manager or the board of directors. And, if that brings no satisfaction, he can see that members of the board are challenged for their seats through the election process at the EMC's annual meeting.

This is a marked contrast to the plight of the private power company's customers, who have few rights as far as the utility is concerned. They may find the company responsive to a grievance, but if not, there is no chance for appeal to the board of directors, which sets the company's policies. Their only recourse is to take their complaint to the State Utilities Commission in Raleigh.

Yet, that recourse gives these consumers an edge on their EMC counterparts. The Commission has full jurisdiction over both rates and quality of service given by the private power companies and it has a staff whose sole function is to handle complaints from Tar Heel consumers.

While the EMC consumers have access to the local EMC board, it counts for little in regard to rising power costs because the board has no control whatever over the price that's paid for wholesale power. And, on the average, wholesale power claims more than 50 per cent of total revenues for Tar Heel EMCs.

The price of that wholesale power is set by the Federal Power Commission in Washington, which has *no full time staff* assigned to handle consumer complaints from all over the nation. It's little wonder that EMC consumers should become frustrated!

Fortunately members of Congress have come to realize that the FPC is very much insulated from grassroots pressures which might otherwise foster needed improvements in its methods and procedures. As a result, Congress is considering legislation which would require some improvements of this sort.

The legislation would expand the powers of the FPC to ensure electric cooperatives' access to equitably priced wholesale power, facilitate fair access to power transmission capacity, prevent unfair methods of competition in the utility industry, and limit application of fuel adjustment charges in wholesale rates. It would also prohibit "pancaking" of wholesale rate hikes—the practice of filing a new rate increase with the FPC while the agency is still reviewing an earlier rate proposal.

The legislation offers some hope for you frustrated consumers who're member-owners of the state's EMCs. It also offers you an opportunity to sound off about the rising cost of power in a timely fashion to someone who can do something about it—members of the Tar Heel Congressional delegation.

Simply write them a letter or postal card, using the addresses listed on Page 23, and ask that they support the Electric Utility Rate Reform and Regulatory Improvement legislation.

Taking that small step may help relieve some of your personal frustration over the spiraling cost of electricity. It could also help stir up Congressional support for legislation which promises to provide some general relief for all of North Carolina's most frustrated consumers.

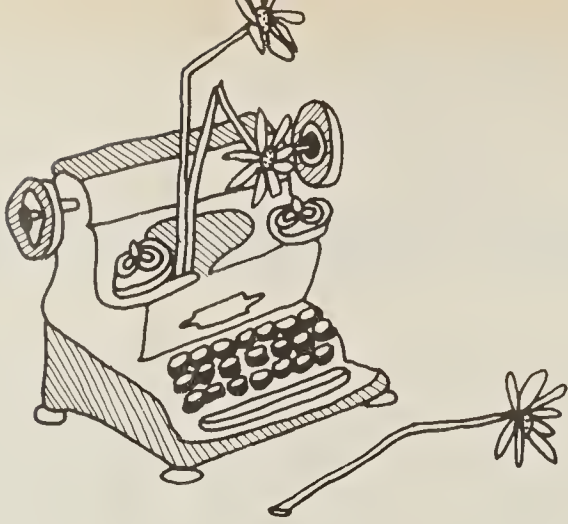
COVER—A patriot flag like this one flew over Guilford Courthouse when Nathaniel Greene's troops met the British army under General Cornwallis at that historic revolutionary battle in March, 1781. The flag was photographed at Tryon Palace for the book *Spirit Up The People*, by Taylor Lewis Jr. and Pannette Young, published by Exmoor House, Inc. The photo is used by permission of the publisher. The \$12.95 book is available in book stores or may be ordered from Exmoor House at P.O. Box 2463, Birmingham, Ala. 35202.

This Issue...

- Profile of New Bern
- Carolina Homemaker
- Update On Energy Crisis
- Where To Write Congressmen

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rural electric Notebook

CP&L WITHDRAWS SURCHARGE BID

Carolina Power and Light Co. has withdrawn--at least temporarily--its proposal to collect a special surcharge on part of its 1975 fuel costs from its wholesale customers, including 18 Electric Membership Corporations.

As a result, the EMCs will avoid paying about \$93,000 a month in surcharge costs.

CP&L's decision was part of a formal agreement executed by the firm and its wholesale customers. Under terms of the agreement, CP&L could revive the surcharge proposal, depending on the outcome of the Federal Power Commission's current review of a proposed increase in the firm's wholesale power rates. That proposed rate went into effect in January, 1975, under bond and subject to refund.

If that rate schedule is upheld by the FPC, the power company will drop the surcharge issue permanently. Otherwise, CP&L may renew the surcharge bid, which was included as a separate measure in the firm's latest rate hike proposal to the FPC. This second rate increase became effective on May 1, also under bond and subject to refund pending an FPC decision.

CP&L had sought authority to levy the surcharge as a means of collecting fuel revenues which the firm

claimed to have lost as a result of switching to a new system of computing the monthly fuel adjustment charges.

NUCLEAR MORATORIUM COSTLY

A nationwide moratorium on nuclear generation would cost American consumers more than \$80 billion a year (in today's dollars) by the year 2000, according to a recent study by the Electric Power Research Institute.

The study predicts that nearly half of these costs would be reflected directly in residential electricity bills, while the remainder would be seen in the form of higher prices for various goods and services. The study concludes that development of coal and nuclear power are the most realistic and economically feasible alternatives to dependence on rapidly depleting reserves of domestic oil and gas, and uncertain supplies of imported oil.

Meanwhile, Interior Secretary Thomas S. Kleppe has expressed "serious doubt" that the U.S. can attain its goal of energy self-sufficiency without use of nuclear power. Referring to efforts by nuclear opponents in some states to limit or ban construction of nuclear power plants, Kleppe said: "Frankly, I don't know what some areas of the country will do if the availability of nuclear power is knocked out for them."

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Add to this the cost of all the 'hidden extras' . . . things like babysitters, housekeepers, transportation to and from the hospital, and on and on and on . . . and you can see how easy it is to be left with a mountain of debt that could take years to pay off.

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They also wanted the cost kept as low as possible. Plus, in order to be certain that you receive the same quality service and claims treatment as Electric Cooperative employees, they insisted that all member consumer service be coordinated through the ELCO[®] Service Center. This new ELCO[®] Hospitalization Supplement is the result of those negotiations.

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New Bern

New Bern is a town so chock-full of historic “firsts” that one relatively recent “first” is sometimes overlooked.

The Pepsi generation wouldn’t exist except for one Caleb Bradham of New Bern. Pepsi-Cola was invented there as “Brad’s Drink” and served in Bradham’s Pharmacy at the corner of Middle & Pollock Streets. Bradham named the soft drink Pepsi-Cola in 1898, and naturally amassed a considerable fortune from its sale.

But more than a century before that discovery, colonists were making a different kind of history there at the First Provincial Congress. This two-day session, which began August 25, 1774, was the first such meeting in America held without the approval of the royal governor. The 71 men who met there adopted a resolution roundly criticizing the royal

(continued on page 8)



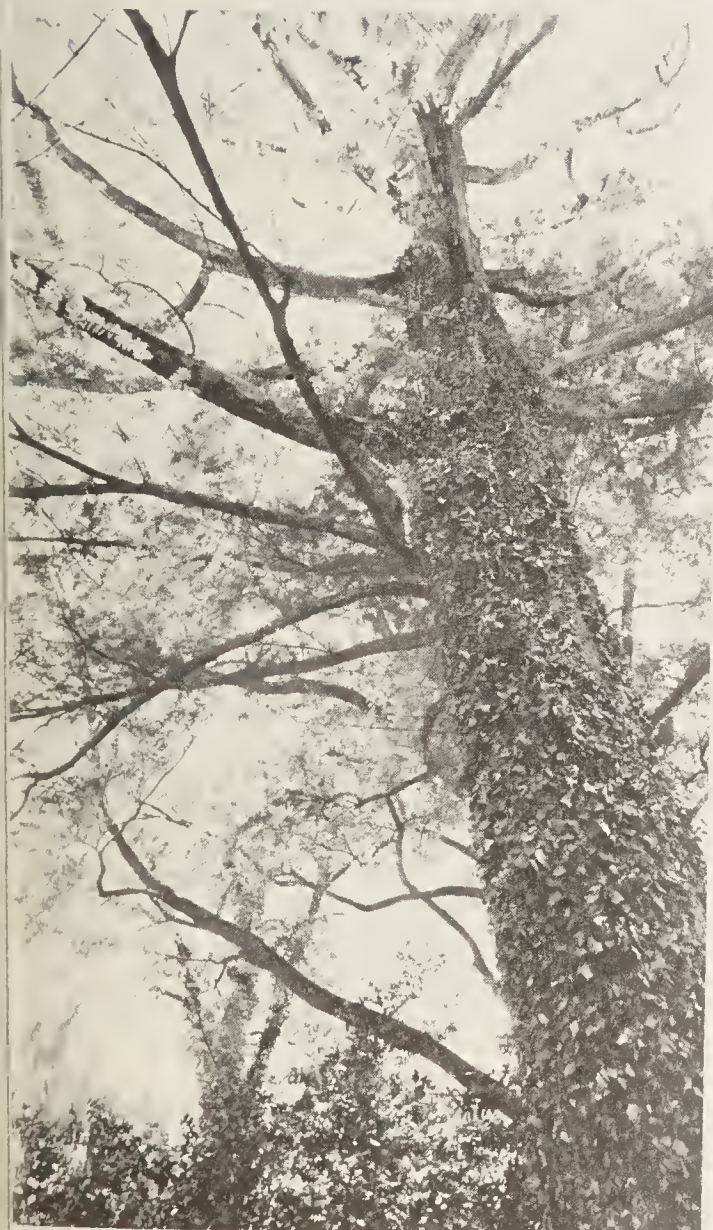
TOP—Situated on the Trent River, New Bern is the second oldest town in North Carolina. **ABOVE**—Two cast metal black bears above the entrance to the Municipal Building are symbolic of Berne, Switzerland. In the language of the Swiss “Berne” means bear. **LEFT**—One of the popular spots in New Bern for hungry tourists and townspeople is the Henderson House, a restaurant serving in the colonial style.



photos & text
by Spencer Carter



FAR LEFT—A “1776” flag flies between the town Municipal Building, completed in 1897, and a rare Seth Thomas street clock (circa 1920) on Pollock Street. **LEFT**—A sundial in the backyard of an old New Bern home is a nostalgic reminder of colonial life.



ABOVE LEFT—An old Cypress tree on East Front street is one of twenty trees in the Hall of Fame of American Trees. **ABOVE**—“Gull’s Harbor” is one of more than 50 historic homes and buildings in New Bern. The mother of Admiral David Farragut, Elizabeth Shine, was born there in 1765.



(continued from page 6)

government. North Carolina was fully launched into the Revolutionary movement.

Other significant historic events followed, and today, New Bern is a history lover's paradise. Named for Berne, Switzerland, it was originally "Newberne," then "New Berne" and finally, the "e" was dropped in 1897.

The reconstructed palace of Royal Governor William Tryon, receives an average of more than 50,000 visitors each year. The original palace burned in 1798 and was not rebuilt until 1952-1959.

The second-oldest town in North Carolina (Bath was first); New Bern was founded in 1710. The first "House of Worship of Colonial Craven Parish," a brick Anglican church, was completed in 1750. The Rev. James Reed arrived from England in 1753 to serve that parish as a missionary for the "Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts," and as the first Rector of the Church.

New Bern was the first capital of the Independent State of North Carolina. The city also had the state's first printing press, which printed the first pamphlet, newspaper and book in North Carolina.

The Firemen's Museum there, founded by the two oldest, continuously operating fire companies in the nation, displays antique fire engines and equipment, historic flags, old maps and other local memorabilia.

With 28 significant historic "firsts" to its record, New Bern recently added another. It was the first town in the country to celebrate the Bicentennial. Getting the jump on everyone else in 1974, New Bern commemorated the meeting of the First Provincial Congress with a ten-day celebration. And, of course, the town is celebrating the 1976 Bicentennial with the rest of the nation.

Certainly New Bern deserves the designation "Bicentennial City." It is said to have more original old buildings than any other in the nation, each of them a little piece of history in itself.

There's the Jones House, a circa 1818 dwelling where Confederate spy Emeline Pigott was imprisoned during the Civil War occupation of New Bern; the Presbyterian Manse, site of the famous duel between John Wright Stanly and Richard Dobbs Spaight on September 5, 1802; the Tisdale-Jones House, circa 1768, whose many owners included Martin Howard, provincial chief justice who presided at the trials of the Regulators taken at the Battle of Alamance; the Gaston House, purchased in 1818 by Judge William Gaston, orator and lawyer, member of Congress, associate justice of the State Supreme Court, and author of the state song; the First Baptist Church, organized in 1809, whose pastors have included William Hooper, founder of Wake Forest University, and Thomas Meredith and Richard Furman, who gave their names to Meredith College and Furman University.

If ghosts walk, surely they walk in New Bern.



ABOVE—Tryon Palace was the Capitol and Governor's residence of the Royal Colony of North Carolina, and the first state Capitol.

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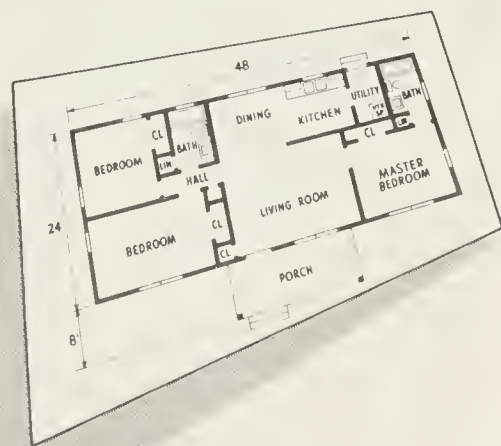
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Two Hundred Years of Fashion

By Peggy Howe

An elegant brocaded gown worn by a governor's wife vied for attention with last year's red plaid mini-skirt in the new exhibit "Two Hundred Years of Fashion" now open at the North Carolina Museum of History in Raleigh.

A reflection of fashion's dictates — from the swathed women of earlier years to today's bikini wearers — opened to the public June 27 at the museum in Raleigh. Planned to be a major bicentennial exhibition, the show will be on view through Jan. 1, 1977.

The exhibit of approximately 65 mounted garments featured fashions from each of the periods throughout the 200 years of our country's existence. Fashions in the exhibit, housed on the museum's second floor, runs the gamut — all the way from a riding habit and early bathing suits to several wedding gowns, according to Museum Registrar Betty Tyson. Most are women's clothes, she said, but there are a few examples of men's and children's fashions included. Appropriate accessories, art and period furnishings complement the fashions.

Fashion is a mystery cries the expert — always unreasonable, unpredictable and irresistible. Fashion turns female attire into a weapon in the eternal battle of the sexes, say the anthropologists; it transforms garments into symbols of social status, power and wealth, say the historians.

It has its roots in the primitive, human impulse to decorate, say the artists, and it expresses deep psychological compulsions for role playing and asserting individuality, say the psychiatrists.

For whatever reasons, fashions have changed in many ways during the two centuries covered in the bicentennial fashion exhibit. Many of the pieces shown are of North Carolina origin.

A ca. 1789 dress in the collection was worn by Mrs. James Iredell, wife of North Carolina's supreme court justice, to a Philadelphia ball given by George Washington.



One piece brown satin and brocade wedding dress of the early 1870s. One of the earlier of the bustle styles which lasted almost two decades.

A little Greek influence is shown in a white Empire design of the 1790s. The very simple white muslin dress depicts the "return to nature" movement following the upheaval of the French Revolution. The semi-transparent chemise gown, belted high, is typical of the gowns worn when women dampened their undergarments to further

accentuate their bodies. Naturally, it is said, with so little protection from the elements, there was a high mortality rate from flu and pneumonia!

It is interesting to note that until the mid-18th century, children were outfitted as miniatures of their parents, and many who were able to survive the diseases and the less-than-sanitary conditions, didn't live through the constant trussing and lacing into the restrictive garments.

Among the very elegant dresses on display is a "Polonaise" style silk taffeta print typical of the type dress worn in New Bern during the last half of the 18th century. It is of French influence and features modified panniers (the French word for basket). The extreme width of these dresses caused much inconvenience since it was impossible for two ladies to pass through a door side by side or even sit on the same couch. The fashion even had an effect on architecture since curved balusters were a direct result.

A 1780s East India block-printed cotton, bearing an English tax stamp and brought to North Carolina by a member of a prominent old Raleigh family, is supposed to have been worn by Marie Antoinette. Experts say there is some doubt that the young queen could have worn this dress since strict rules of etiquette regulated court costumes; however the queen's playing at farmin brought about a vogue for cotton prints — at this time, still luxuries imported from India.

After many intervening and transition styles, nearly a century later, wide skirts again took the scene, and the mid-19th century ladies were forced again to sit singly and enter doors one at a time.



Far left—1847 second day brown plaid silk taffeta gown and shawl trimmed with matching silk fringe. Features crocheted buttons. North Carolina origin. Left—Museum volunteer Dottie Bell, surrounded by already completed gowns, adjusts a dress on the form. The white dress with red trim, an India cotton, is reportedly one worn by Marie Antoinette, and brought to Raleigh by a member of a very prominent old family in Raleigh. Below—Marie McDade, docent, “pads a shoulder” for the 1949s “new look” wool suite on the form for display in the “200 Years of Fashion” exhibit.



showing female limbs, were vigorously denounced from the pulpit and in the press, but to no avail. Women’s emancipation had begun and Amelia Bloomer’s innovation, rejected in the 1850s was readily accepted in the early 1900s.

A 1930s return to femininity, and the “utility” fashions of World War II years soon evolved into the chemise, sack, trapeze and A lines of the ’50s. The next decade brought prosperity and even shorter skirts, and more feelings of freedom for women. Skirts continued to creep up until the micro-mini left nowhere to go but down. Pantsuits by now had appeared for wear everywhere and despite designers’ feeble efforts now and then to dislodge them, seem destined to continue forever, offering the double advantages of comfort and warmth plus style.

Whatever fashion is to any individual, he will find it in the “Two Hundred Years of Fashion” exhibit.

Wide skirts were a feature of the e-bellum period of North Carolina the colors are drab. The inboyant shades of earlier years al by this time faded to dark greens and browns, and quietness and dlicacy became the feminine plities most admired, Mrs. Tyson outed. “Rude health” was positively ar and some young women went scar as to drink vinegar in order to acuire the desired “interesting or,” she added.

rs. Tyson explained that the dents have readied the dresses for exhibit, including mending and er where necessary. Due to the city of fabric during the Civil W, dresses were made and eride, and in these cases the

expert seamstresses among the docents have followed tiny needle holes to determine the original lines of the garments, the registrar noted.

An 1890s second-day dress, supposedly worn by a bride who was killed in a riding accident on her honeymoon, is also displayed. Alongside is one of 12 sets of lingerie from her trousseau, each piece bearing her hand-embroidered name “Florine” encircled by a heart.

As the 19th century gave way to the 20th, the 1920s brought unforgettable shorter skirts — to the knee even! — and correspondingly shorter hair. Women were said to look “much like schoolboys,” and there are several “flapper” costumes in the show to illustrate the point.

These dresses, scandalously

Peggy Howe is a public information officer in the state’s Department of Cultural Resources. The North Carolina Museum of History, at 109 E. Jones St., is open daily except Monday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and 2-5 p.m. Sunday. Admission is free.

It's the Outdoor Drama Season

Strike at the Wind!

The legendary Henry Berry Lowrie and the Lumbee Indians ride again this summer in Randolph Umberger's **Strike at the Wind!**

Lowrie and his followers were among the Lumbees who hid out among the massive swamplands of Robeson County to escape being used as forced labor by the Confederate Army. The Confederacy was unwilling to trust them as soldiers and unjustly put them to work building batteries and making salt along the coast. They retaliated.

Roaming Robeson County from 1864 to 1874, the Lowrie band was a thorn in the side of local authority. Outfoxing local officials time after time, Lowrie's fame grew until even the young outlaw Jesse James adopted his name.

In one famous incident, Lowrie boarded a train as it pulled out of the station, waving to the sheriff standing in the center of town. The sheriff jumped aboard the train, and then, looking out of a window, saw Lowrie riding toward town, waving and smiling.

The \$12,000 bounty on Lowrie's head was never collected. He mysteriously disappeared into the swamplands of Robeson County never to be seen again. Whatever his fate, his actions prompted the North Carolina legislature to extend voting rights to all people, bringing national attention to the plight of the Lumbee Indians.

In addition to adventure, there's singing, dancing and romance in this family drama. It will be presented every Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 8:30 p.m. at the Lakeside Amphitheatre, Riverside Country Club, Pembroke, N.C., through August 14. Ticket information may be obtained by writing: "Strike at the Wind!," P.O. Box 1059, Pembroke, N.C. 28372.



From This Day Forward

From This Day Forward is a story of religious perseverance and the hope for a better life in a new land.

In 1893, a religious sect called the Waldenses settled in the rolling foothills of Burke County, just east of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Religious persecutions against the group in Europe had ended in 1848, and the blessing of peace brought a surplus population.

So some of the younger members of the group crowded into steamship steerage quarters and travelled to where they had purchased on credit 15,000 acres of land in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains.

Their dreams of an abundant life were soon shattered by the harshness of the rocky land and cold winters, but they persevered.

From July 14 to August 21, Tuesday through Saturday at 8:45 p.m. in Valdese, N.C. the outdoor drama **From This Day Forward** will chronicle the joys and heartbreaks of the Waldenses in their struggle with poverty.

And on August 14 and 15, Valdese will host a festival to celebrate the return of the Waldenses to their native valleys after the persecutions of Louis XIV. The festival, celebrating "The Glorious Return," will include games, dancing, exhibits, and native foods and crafts. Information about the outdoor drama and the festivities may be obtained from the Historic Valdese Foundation, P.O. Box 655, Valdese, N.C. 28690.





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Dark Screen Gives Warning

TV Tornado Alert

Viewing television in North Carolina in the spring and summer is not only fun, it can be very informative — particularly with the sudden weather changes and threatening skies.

By turning your television channel selector to Channel 13 and adjusting the brightness control knob until the screen turns dark (not too dark, or nothing will show), then turning to Channel 2 without resetting the brightness, you can get an electronic view of any approaching storms.

For instance, lightning shows up as bright flashes and streaks. A tornado within 15-20 miles will cause your television picture to become bright. The closer the tornado, the brighter the picture. If your screen remains bright for several moments, it is time to take precautions.

The weather bureau reports most any television set will work. It doesn't matter if you have an outside antenna or rabbit ears, or whether your set is color, or black and white.

Or, if you have a power outage, transistor radios can be used by tuning the radio to the low end of the dial at about 550 kilocycles. Lightning makes intermittent static and a tornado causes continuous static.

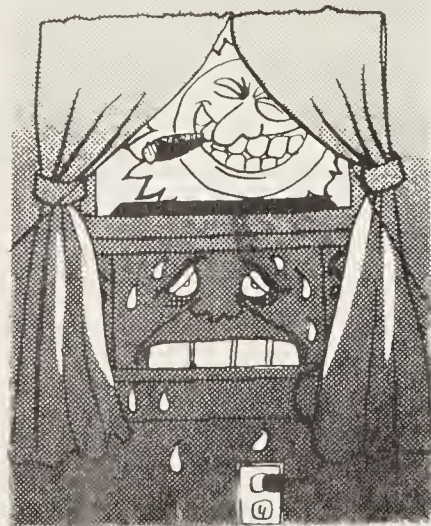
Your television and radio sets pick up radiated signals from lightning and tornadoes because the electrical discharge of lightning and tornado funnel act as huge vacuum tubes.

Tornadoes may occur at any time, but they are most common during the hours closely following the warmest temperatures of the day. Eighty-two per cent develop between noon and midnight, with the most dangerous hours from four to six p.m.

The path of an average twister is only 16 miles long and less than a quarter-mile wide.

You might like to clip this article as a reference and check out your own radio and television receivers during a spring or summer storm. The information could prove invaluable at a time of storm.

Savings Suggestions



Keep your cool! Place your air-conditioning unit out of direct sunlight and keep drapes closed to prevent the sun's heat from entering. Choose the correct size conditioner for the area to be cooled, don't overcool and close off unused rooms.

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Submit your recipe today! Here's how it works:

1. All recipes submitted must be legibly printed or typed.
2. Only one recipe per person will be accepted, so send us your very best.
3. Include your name and complete address. It will appear in publication with your recipe. Double check carefully all measurements and ingredients in your recipe before mailing. We shouldn't want to botch your grandmother's plum pudding for anything!

One final word: From our experience with the *Country Kitchen* column, we have found that desserts are very popular among our North Carolina Cooks...but we can only print so many!

REMEMBER: Send your entries right away, postmarked no later than AUGUST 20, 1976, to:

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Country Kitchen



SPANISH CHICKEN

Mrs. Bowers has sent us what she calls "one of my favorites." Her "Spanish Chicken" lives up to her predictions.

"I believe if you try it just one time a 'repeat' will soon follow. That thickened sauce with all those raisins and olives served in a separate gravy boat adds zip," she wrote.

The Littleton resident also suggested that rice and string beans are good side dishes to serve with "Spanish Chicken."

If you would like to share a recipe with this column, send it to: Country Kitchen, P.O. Box 27306, Raleigh, N.C. 27611. We pay \$5 for published recipes.

COUNTRY KITCHEN RECIPE

Submitted by Sallie G. Bowers of Littleton, N.C.

SPANISH CHICKEN

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 2 chickens, cut up | ½ cup milk |
| 2 slices bacon | 1 individual box raisins |
| 1 8-oz. can tomato sauce | Salt |
| 1 dozen stuffed olives | |

Cut bacon and fry in a large-sized pan until half done. Add cut up, salted (if desired) chicken and tomato sauce, using water to rinse out can. Cover pan and let simmer for one hour, turning once or twice. Five to ten minutes before removing from pan, add raisins, olives, a little of the olive juice and milk. Stir and simmer for a few minutes longer. This may be prepared the day before using and reheated.

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CC-7-76

EMCs, Duke Agree on Rates

North Carolina Electric Membership Corporations and Duke Power Co. have reached an amicable settlement regarding a wholesale power rate increase which the EMCs have been paying since July 1, 1975.

The settlement will bring a slight reduction in the rate increase, which had originally boosted the cost of power purchased from Duke by 30 per cent.

Nine of the state's EMCs currently buy wholesale power from Duke for resale to their consumer-members. (See Box for list.)

The reduced wholesale rate will not go into effect until the settlement is approved by the Federal Power Commission.

"We are indeed pleased to have reached this agreement with Duke," said Robert C. Cleveland, executive vice president of N.C. EMC, which represents North Carolina's 28 electric cooperatives in all power supply negotiations.

"The settlement means these nine EMCs will see their power costs drop somewhat from what they're now paying. By negotiating the agreement, we've been able to save the EMCs thousands of dollars on the power rate without having to go

through an expensive, long-term legal battle."

The rate increase was filed with the FPC last summer and was

Power Costs Drop

These nine EMCs buy wholesale power from Duke Power Co. and, as a result, will see their power costs drop slightly under terms of a rate settlement negotiated by the EMCs and the power firm.

The EMCs are Blue Ridge, Lenoir; Crescent, Statesville; Davidson, Lexington; Haywood, Waynesville; Pee Dee, Wadesboro; Piedmont, Hillsborough; Rutherford, Forest City; Surry-Yadkin, Dobson; and Union, Monroe.

allowed to go into effect on July 1, under bond and subject to refund pending an FPC decision on the acceptability of the new rates.

The settlement rates are expected to remain in effect until January 1, 1978.

"We believe this agreement marks the beginning of a period of stable prices on wholesale power purchased from Duke Power," Cleveland pointed out. "If this does develop, it will be the first such period we've experienced since 1970."

Duke and its wholesale customers—including both EMCs and municipal power systems—have been embroiled in negotiations and legal maneuverings related to four separate but overlapping rate hike proposals since 1970. The first three were concluded by an FPC ruling last fall.

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Can bulk tobacco barns use only off-and-on operation of their circulation systems during the late afternoon and evening without harming the cured leaf?

Agricultural engineers at N.C. State University think so and they've set out to prove it in an extensive experimental project to test the theory.

Some experiments have been conducted in this area, but the studies have been on such a small scale that the results could not be called conclusive.

The new experiment, involving tests on 15 farms in 11 Eastern North Carolina counties, will seek to determine if bulk cured tobacco is harmed in any way when the barn's fan operates only 40 minutes of every hour from 3 to 9 p.m. The fan normally runs constantly but will operate on a 10-minutes-off, 20-minutes-on basis during the test hours.

The project is being sponsored by NCSU's Agricultural Extension Service, and its Agricultural Experiment Station in cooperation with North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation (N.C.EMC). N.C.EMC is financing the \$11,000 project.

Results from the tests may have major implications for Tar Heel leaf farmers and for the state's electric utilities which serve tobacco-growing areas.

By using the procedure, farmers could save a great deal of money on power costs throughout the curing season.

If the procedure were adopted widely, the power suppliers—primarily the EMCs—would see a significant reduction in the overall power demands they face during late afternoon-early evening periods of peak use each summer. In Eastern North Carolina, power use normally reaches its daily

Cooperating Farmers

The farmers who are cooperating on the NCSU-EMC bulk barn experiments, listed by EMCs, are:

Pitt and Greene EMC, Farmville (In cooperation with the City of Wilson and the City of Greenville)—Hilton Webb, Rt. 1, Macclesfield; Jesse L. Cobb, Rt. 1, Farmville; Leslie Cobb, Rt. 1, Farmville; Marion L. Pridgen Jr. of 2002 Hermitage Road, Wilson.
Edgecombe-Martin County EMC, Tarboro—Tommy Phillips, Rt. 1, Pinetops.
Halifax EMC, Enfield—A.G. Willcox, Jr., Rt. 3, Enfield; Hugh Holt Stegall, Rt. 1, Warrenton.

Roanoke EMC, Rich Square—W.L. Hux, Rt. 2, Halifax. **Wake EMC**, Wake Forest—Ronald Beckham, Rt. 2, Franklinton; Charles W. Dickerson, Rt. 1, Kittrell.

South River EMC, Dunn—Glyn Lewis of the Duart Community in Cumberland County. **Lumbee River EMC**, Red Springs—Mac and Tom Powers of St. Pauls. **Brunswick EMC**, Shallotte—Bill Friedman—Wootens Crossroads community in Columbus County. **Four County EMC**, Burgaw—Miller Taylor and Bobby Roberts, both of Dublin.

EMCs Finance Study

Leaf Tests Slated

peak during this period year-round, but the tip of that peak moves up drastically in the summer due to the heavy loads placed on the power systems by air conditioning and bulk curing.

Because the motors which operate the fans in these barns normally run around the clock throughout the six-to eight-week curing season, the barns consume a tremendous amount of power during a relatively short period. As a result, leaf farmers are being required to pay a "demand charge" or surcharge on their power bills all year long, even though they use the systems only during the curing season.

Some relief is expected to flow from

efforts by barn manufacturers to equip their barns with fan motors using less power. But NCSU engineers feel the off-and-on operation of the fan holds the most promise for alleviating the problem—if farmers can have some assurance that the procedure won't hurt their tobacco.

In addition to financing the tests, EMC officials arranged for the experiments to be conducted on specific farms. The farmers who are cooperating on the project receive no compensation.

The 15 test barns will be monitored daily by technicians who'll collect data under the supervision of NCSU engineers.

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Fortunately the danger is minimized by strict safety precautions. Still, 19 rural co-op linemen have died on the job since 1944. And one of these fatalities occurred last year.

To prepare EMC linemen for this risky work, the North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation in co-operation with Wayne Community College, Goldsboro, sponsors an annual Line School.

This spring, 89 men from 20 North Carolina rural electric cooperatives assembled at Wayne Community College to learn the latest techniques for keeping the power flowing safely.

Three separate groups learned everything from the basics on up to handling 115,000 volts safely. One of the training exercises consisted of using insulated bucket trucks and specially-made, expensive rubber gloves and sleeves to handle up to 7,200 volts of "hot" line, while insulated "sticks" were used for higher voltages.

Linemen are taught to work with "hot" lines, so that repairs can be made to poles, insulators and wires without interrupting electric service to homes and businesses. The price they must pay for our convenience is constant attention to safety, for the alternative is death or serious injury.



photos & text by Spencer Carter

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Update On The Energy Crisis

By Charles A. Robinson Jr.
Deputy General Manager
National Rural Electric Cooperative Association

Anyone who fails to recognize that the United States is in an energy crisis is living in a fantasy world.

The U.S. now consumes about 75 quads — quadrillion Btu's — of energy annually. If we triple present coal production by the year 2000, if we maintain present levels of oil imports and maximize domestic oil and natural gas production, if by the year 2000 we mine 2.5-billion tons of oil shale annually, if we assume that in the year 2000 10% of our total energy is geothermal and 2% is solar, then 100 quads of energy will be available from these sources in the year 2000.

Our historic consumption by 2000 would be 171 quads — 71% more than that available from all of the sources just mentioned. If we cut this historic growth rate by 29%, to 2.5% per year, then our year 2000 energy demand would be 136 quads — 36% more than available from all coal, natural gas, shale, domestic and imported petroleum, and reasonably foreseeable geothermal and solar techniques. This gap of 36 quads must be closed to avoid economic disaster, and the only source with which to make the closure is nuclear — uranium and plutonium. Moreover, it will take about 500 nuclear reactors of 100 mw each to close this gap. There is really no other way. By the year 2000, therefore, 50% of our total energy supply probably will be in the form of electricity, 45% of it nuclear. This means that, on the average, consumption of electricity across the country must increase by at least 5.5% annually during the next 24 years.

Switch to Coal & Nuclear

In my judgment, the U.S. must accept and implement changes in its energy use patterns under which growth is reduced by close to 29% and under which vastly greater quantities of coal and nuclear fuel are substituted for our vanishing natural gas and oil reserves. The only visible alternative to this change is a devastating level of unemployment and other manifestations of economic distress that could well destroy our personal and political freedoms and our free political system.

These changes from oil and natural gas to coal and nuclear fuel are well within our technical capability. The big question is not technology. The big question is

political. Will we recognize the problem in time to allow our representative form of government to act decisively? Will we accept the inconveniences of conservation? Will our new environmental protection laws allow us to mine and burn the necessary coal and operate the synthetic liquid fuel plants? Can we ever satisfy the people who deny the safety of nuclear power? One fact is very clear. We cannot provide employment without producing energy in progressively greater quantities. And, we cannot produce useful energy without some impact on the environment.

Nuclear Fuel Cheaper

Right now base load electricity can be produced much more cheaply from a nuclear power plant costing \$750 per kilowatt than from a gas- or oil-fired unit built for \$300 per kilowatt. The reason is that nuclear fuel costs run at about one or four mills per kwh while in many places natural gas or oil run about 5 times that. Bechtel Power Corp. estimates that by the mid-eighties the cost of nuclear generation will average one cent per kwh below that of coal-fired output, a saving of \$60-million per year for each 1000-mw plant. During 1974, U.S. nuclear power plants saved U.S. ratepayers \$800-million, and saved them an additional \$600-million during the first six months of 1975. During 1975, nuclear power plants produced 8.3% of U.S. electricity with a higher reliability factor than comparable coal-fired plants of the same age. And, because it represents a very small part of nuclear power cost, a 50% increase in the 1975 price of uranium oxide will raise the cost of electricity by only about one mill per kwh. Each 1000-mw nuclear power plant replaces 10 million barrels of oil per year.

One big red flag on the nuclear track is the fact that only 50% of our uranium reserves are in the proved or probable category. This is one reason that nuclear fuel is becoming difficult to find. There is, however, at least one answer to this quandary. Natural uranium consists of fissionable U-235 and 99.3% nonfissionable U-238. As we enrich the natural material to make the 3% U-235 useable in light-water reactors, the residue of nonfissionable U-238 is stored as "tailings," at present a waste product, in 100,000 barrels at Oak Ridge, Tenn. and other sites.

Breeder Reactors

This U-238, placed in a breeder reactor, is converted into fissionable plutonium. Thus, the breeder can recycle these presently useless "tailings" already on hand into a quantity of fissionable fuel equivalent to 400-billion tons of coal, worth \$10-trillion at \$25 per ton, the equivalent of five to ten times the energy that would be produced by the oil in the OPEC nations combined. It is the breeder reactor which will unlock this resource. We must develop a breeder or forego energy independence until well into the 21st century. The breeder will extend our nuclear energy supply from a few decades to several centuries without the commensurate depressing effect on fossil fuel prices.



Robinson

Charles A. Robinson, Jr. has been with the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association since 1950, serving as Staff Engineer, Corporate Counsel, Director of the Energy and Environmental Policy Department and most recently as Deputy General Manager. He holds a Bachelor of Electrical Engineering from the University of Virginia, and a Juris Doctor with honors from Georgetown University.

We hear a great deal about the dangerous characteristics of nuclear power plants and their waste products, including plutonium. Be assured of one thing. A nuclear power plant core cannot explode and cannot be made to explode. It contains neither the weapons-grade fissionable material (at least 90% enriched) nor the containment required to support an explosion. Rest assured also that these plants do not release large quantities of radiation. In the year 2000, with 1,000 nuclear power plants on line, each American citizen will, on the average, receive each year 180 units of radiation exposure from sources unrelated to nuclear power (natural background, medical x-rays, etc.) and about .4 unit additional exposure from all operating reactors and all supporting activities.

Plutonium, which is a byproduct of present day reactors, is a real "horror symbol" in the dictionary of nuclear scare words. One pound of plutonium, it is said, can kill 9-billion people; a speck, they say, will cause lung cancer. The fact is that over the past 30 years, nuclear weapons testing has placed 10,000 pounds (five tons) of powdered plutonium into the atmosphere — equivalent to an amount that would be released by a thousand nuclear reactors of 1,000 mw each operating continuously for 3-million years — and if the critics were correct, an amount which would have completely wiped out human life on this planet. Yet according to the respected nuclear physicist, Dr. Ralph Lapp, no increased lung cancer incidence at all can be traced to this source.

"... each of us is many times more likely to be killed by almost any other kind of accident than by a nuclear plant meltdown."

As Congressman Mike McCormack of the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy so well states it, "The fact is that no radiation death or injury has resulted from the operation of any U.S.-licensed nuclear power station, nor has any member of the public been subject to excess radiation from any of all 58 operating nuclear power stations and their supporting activities and the more than 100 U.S. military reactors now in service."

Nuclear waste material is another "horror myth" subject. "How," it is asked, "can we protect future generations against the deadly radiation which will last for 24,000 years and be released from the huge quantities of waste produced by nuclear power plants?" The truth is that the volume of nuclear wastes generated through the year 2000 by all U.S. power reactors will cover a football field to a depth of three or four feet. The plutonium, which indeed is active for 24,000 years, will be recycled from these wastes and refabricated into new reactor fuel. The unusable wastes, with a much shorter active life, will be converted into a glass-like ceramic, sealed in stainless steel and stored. Dr. Lapp points out that it will be the year 2000 before total accumulated wastes from all civilian reactors will equal in quantity the wastes from military nuclear activities, about which no one at all seems worried.

Another leading physicist, Dr. Bernard L. Cohen of the University of Pittsburgh, has calculated and testified before the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy of Congress that assuming such waste is buried at random locations throughout the U.S. 2000 feet below the surface — without post burial surveillance of any kind — we might expect after a million years four cancer deaths per year for each year of all nuclear power in the U.S. Dr. Cohen also testified that the additional radiation exposure burden placed on future generations by nuclear reactor wastes will be about one part in 10-billion for each year of all nuclear power. And to the extent that we use nuclear power, we save for these future generations what is left of our hydrocarbon reserves — coal, oil and gas — for chemical feedstocks.

Risk Negligible

There is indeed some risk in nuclear power as there is risk in crossing the street, in driving a car and in flying on a scheduled airline. There is no such thing as a zero-risk activity in the real world. What nuclear opponents argue is that nuclear power is so dangerous that before a plant can be operated we must achieve perfection in all phases of design, fabrication and operation, and since perfection is impossible, nuclear power is unsafe. The flaw in this argument is that reactor safety analysis assumes imperfection rather than perfection, and designs in multiple redundant safety systems so that even in the worst likelihood involving simultaneous failure of several systems, no serious accident will occur. Let me also suggest that the answers to questions posed by a new technology do not lie in delaying and procrastinating the development of that technology. The design, siting, construction and operation of a nuclear power plant to assure public safety are the most carefully regulated and inspected processes in our entire technological complex.

A most comprehensive and exhaustive nuclear safety study has recently been completed under the supervision of Dr. Norman C. Rasmussen of M.I.T. for the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Dr. Rasmussen's work indicates that with 100 nuclear power plants in operation (1980), the average American citizen will experience one chance in 5 billion of being killed by a reactor accident. This is about the same risk as that of being struck by a meteor. The same citizen is over a million times more likely to be killed by a motor vehicle, 160,000 times more likely to drown, 50,000 times more likely to be accidentally electrocuted or killed by a falling object. The Rasmussen study concludes that with 100 nuclear power plants in operation (1980), the chance for a core meltdown (not an explosion) would be one in 200, and that the most likely result of such an accident would be less than one fatality, less than one serious injury and less than \$1-million of property damage.

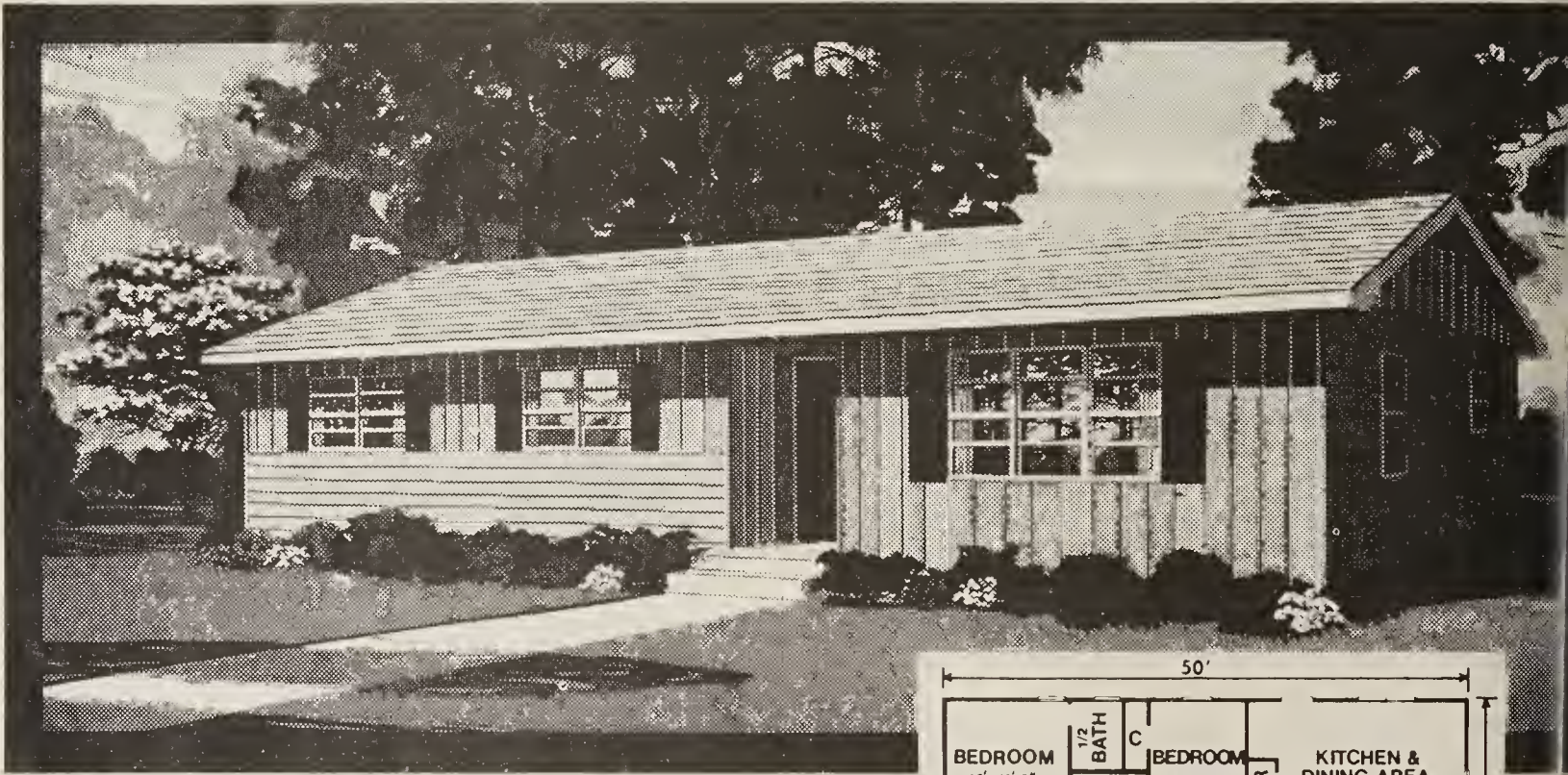
Good Odds

The obvious general conclusion is that each of us is many times more likely to be killed by almost any other kind of accident than by a nuclear power plant meltdown. We must certainly continue a full scale effort to maintain and improve nuclear safety, but there is no valid justification, in my judgment, for any longer delaying the utilization of this great source of abundant clean energy.

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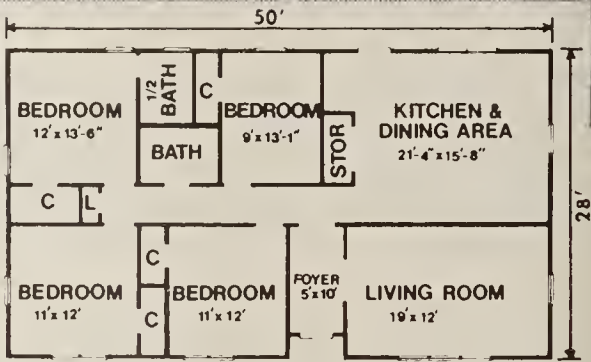
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4104 Dirksen Senate Office Building

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